

A method for prohibiting predetermined categories of online purchases, the method including the steps of generating a database of user specific preferences, generating a categorized database of web sites offering online purchases, and receiving an online purchase request from a user. The method further includes determining if the online purchase request corresponds to an entry in the categorized database of web sites offering online purchases, and prohibiting the online purchase request if a corresponding entry is found in the categorized database of web sites offering online purchases and if the user specific preferences indicate that that the online purchase request corresponds to a type of purchases to be prohibited. The method may generally be implemented through an Internet service provider, through a credit card authorization process, or through additional software configured to cooperatively operate with a user's browser program at the personal computer level.